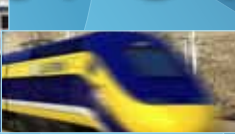


SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS SCAG SPOTLIGHT



Legislation and Policy Affecting Our Region

June 2012

RC Report

Highlights from the Regional Council Meeting

June 7, 2012

PRESS CONFERENCE – So Cal Leaders Urge Congress to Act on Transportation

Immediately following the Regional Council Meeting, leaders from across Southern California held a press conference to urge Congress to pass a surface transportation bill. The current bill, Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), authorizes how surface transportation projects are funded. This legislation expired September 30, 2009. The bill has been renewed nine times, at the 2005 funding level, over nearly three years. The current extension will expire on June 30, 2012. At the press conference leaders urged Congress to act in a bipartisan manner and pass a long-term extension to the bill and not put 2.9 million jobs at risk. View the press release at www.scag.ca.gov.

ACTION – Southern California Economic Recovery & Job Creation Strategy: Phase II

The Regional Council voted unanimously to continue with Phase II of the Southern California Economic Recovery & Job Creation Strategy. In June, 2011, the Strategy was approved by the Regional Council. The Strategy identifies opportunities for SCAG to partner with member cities, counties, business leaders, organized labor, and other key stakeholders to create jobs, to reduce or remove high-priority economic challenges, and provide solutions to expedite Southern California's economic recovery. Phase II continues this effort by outlining additional activities that focus on the areas of reforms, advocacy, cluster analysis and economic impact analysis.

ACTION – RC Awards Scholarships

The Regional Council awarded the 2012 SCAG Scholarships to: Victoria Carrillo, Imperial County; Daniel Sobajian and Mariam Kyarunts, Los Angeles County; Samantha Trippy, Orange County; Gema Loera, Riverside County; Jesus Flores, San Bernardino County; and Tanner Shelton, Ventura County. Each student will receive a \$2,000 scholarship award and will be required to complete an internship with a local planning agency, such as SCAG, or a city planning office. The SCAG Scholarship Program was launched in 2010 to encourage young leaders to pursue careers in planning and local government. For more information, please visit www.scag.ca.gov/scholarship.

From the Executive Director

Additional News for the Month

State and Federal Agencies Approve 2012-2035 RTP/SCS

On June 4, 2012, the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration (FHWA/FTA) determined, in consultation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), that the conformity analysis submitted by SCAG for the 2012-2035 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) meets all requirements and allows the SCAG region to continue to receiving federal funding for transportation projects.

Also on June 4, the California Air Resources Board (ARB) issued an Executive Order accepting SCAG's determination that the RTP/SCS will, if implemented, achieve the 2020 and 2035 greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction targets established by the ARB.

The FHWA/FTA and ARB actions conclude all required approval for the 2012-2035 RTP/SCS. This positive outcome represents the culmination of more than two years of work involving a multitude agencies including transportation and air quality agencies, 191 cities, hundreds of local, county, regional and state officials and staff, the business community, environmental groups, as well as various nonprofit organizations.

High-Speed Rail Update

Following an extensive international search, the California High-Speed Rail Authority (HSRA) Board of Directors announced the hiring of Jeff Morales as the Authority's new Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Jeff Morales is an excellent choice by the Board to take the helm at this pivotal time and capitalize on the positive momentum that has built up over the last several months.

Further work by staff to develop the prioritized project list for submittal to the HSRA by June continues on the Southern California High-Speed Rail Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Per the MOU, all participating agencies must execute the MOU by June and the signatories shall submit a prioritized project list to the HSRA by June. It is anticipated the Transportation Commission CEOs will meet on June 15 to finalize the regional prioritized project list that will bring speed and service improvements to Southern California commuter rail services. We would hope that OCTA, who is the only outstanding agency to not execute the MOU, will do so by the end of the month.

Follow us on    and at www.scag.ca.gov

EVENTS JUNE

- 7th VCOG Annual Dinner
- 14th SANBAG General Assembly
- 21st WRCOG General Assembly
- 25th CVAG General Assembly

JULY

- 4th Independence Day - SCAG Offices Closed
- 5th Regional Council and Policy Committee Meetings